Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 17 Feb 2021 until 23:59 on Thursday 18 Feb 2021

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 16 Feb 2021 at 15:01

Confidence: High for changeable, and at times wet and windy conditions. Medium for cloud amounts.

Headline for Wednesday 17 Feb 2021: Bright spells and showers, wintry over the summits. Windy.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 17 Feb 2021

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy Snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Poor visibility
Low Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Heavy Rain	Sleet	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Cloudy	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability							
20%	60%	40%	20%	30%	30%	50%	70%

Forecast for Wednesday 17 Feb 2021

Weather: Overnight rain. Plenty of dry weather during daylight hours with some bright spells. However, a scattering of showers are expected, these wintry over the summits. The showers merging into longer outbreaks of rain in the evening. Windy with a significant wind chill.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 70% during daylight hours, occasional or extensive cloud around the summits. 30% early and late in the day, extensive cloud, base 600m or less.

Visibility: Mainly very good, but lowering significantly in showers. Moderate or poor in any rain.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Wednesday 17 Feb 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	31/39 S	42/52 S	41/53 S	35/45 SW	33/44 SW	31/41 S	28/37 S	32/43 S	39/52 S
600	27/37 S	35/49 S	36/51 S	31/43 SW	29/41 SW	26/38 S	22/32 S	25/37 S	31/46 S
300	10/28 S	12/35 S	15/39 S	13/33 SW	13/32 S	12/31 S	9/27 S	11/30 S	14/39 S
Valley	10/25 S	11/29 SE	16/35 S	12/28 SW	13/28 S	13/28 S	9/24 S	12/28 S	13/31 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	1/-6	1/-7	1/-7	1/-7	1/-7	1/-7	1/-7	2/-5	2/-5
600	3/-4	2/-5	3/-5	3/-4	3/-4	3/-3	3/-3	4/-2	4/-2
300	4/1	4/-0	5/0	5/1	6/2	6/2	5/2	5/2	6/2
Valley	6/3	6/2	7/3	6/3	8/4	8/4	7/4	7/4	8/5
Freezing Level*	1100m	1200m	1100m	900m	900m	1000m	1100m	1400m	1500m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Nothing further to add.

Forecast for Thursday 18 Feb 2021

Weather: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain overnight and during the morning, Turning more showery in the afternoon and evening with some brighter spells. The showers wintry over the summits. Windy with a significant wind chill.

Maximum wind: South 40mph gusting 60mph, turning Southwest 25mph gusting 40mph during the morning.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 50%, occasional or extensive cloud around the summits.

Visibility: Moderate or poor in rain or showers, otherwise very good.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 5 to 8 Celsius
At 800m: Plus 3 Celsius falling Zero Celsius by dusk
Freezing level: Above the summits lowering to around 800m by dusk.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 16 February 2021. Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:50. Full report: We are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people undertaking their daily local exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally, not leaving the village, town or city where they live. The thaw continues at all levels; once again, although the summit temperature around midday was only just above freezing, the thaw was being accelerated by driving rain and drizzle. As this was accompanied with a predominantly S to SW wind it was noticeable that slopes facing these directions are thawing faster than other aspects (plus E and N facing slopes had deeper drifts to begin with). The snowline has now risen to around 750m although up to 850m large areas of the fells are now free from snow. Above 850m a significant amount of snow remains. The snowpack was mainly soft and wet with patches of hard snow and ice. Drifts of up to 100cm still exist, although such depth is the exception. More commonly above 850cm the snow drifts in sheltered spots and hollows are between 10cm and 15cm. There are also patches of hard ice on paths; although these can be found as low as 350m, the majority now lie above 600m and are

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mainly situated on flatter sections, where paths are crossed by drainage lines and, especially above 700m, on popular routes where snow has been compacted. During this transitional phase some paths had sections of slush literally adjacent to sections of hard, slippery ice creating treacherous conditions. With deep snow still obscuring/obliterating landmarks, conditions above the snowline can change quickly and dramatically when showers blow through, particularly if these are in the form of snow – which is currently forecast at altitude on Wednesday. Excellent navigational skills are essential as is a safe back-up escape plan to ensure that you do not get caught out in a whiteout somewhere where you do not want to be. There are cornices above, predominantly but not exclusively, N and E facing slopes. With the thaw these have slumped, weakened and, presumably (I didn't go too close!) now consist of soft snow. Therefore, although reduced in size, they are unstable, so please keep well clear of such edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. Upland tarns, such as Red Tarn, remain frozen although with the milder temperatures are unsafe to venture onto. Despite the milder temperatures, the summit windchill remains well below freezing so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. For those venturing above the snowline an ice axe and crampons remain essential; this is despite the snowpack being mainly wet owing to the amount of hard snow and ice that still exists and the fact that it would only take a marginal drop in temperature (currently forecast on Wednesday) for the snow to harden. This is the case regardless of route. Eg on the so-called "easy" path up Helvellyn from Swirls there remains a steep section of unavoidable snow near Browncove Crags where a slip without the means to stop yourself would have serious consequences. The crests of both Striding and Swirral Edges are in mixed condition consisting of bare, wet rock, soft snow and hard compacted snow and ice. Both exits are guarded by banks of steep, deep unavoidable snow. Today, this was soft snow but, again, this could well return to being steep, hard snow on Wednesday. Therefore, anyone attempting such exposed routes above the snowline must be experienced in winter mountaineering. Ice on rocks and boulders, which was solid last week, is now loose in places so care needs to be taken even when wearing crampons. Goggles are highly recommended in case fresh snow or spindrift is encountered and they also help to increase contrast when looking for steep edges. Please be conservative with your plans and know both your limits and also when to turn back. A pandemic is not the time to be pushing your comfort zone. Temperature: plus 1.9 C, Maximum wind speed 33.8 mph, Wind chill: minus 6.3 C, Average wind speed: 23.8 mph

Issued at: 1501 on Tue 16 Feb 2021

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